

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ROME 05656 051850Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06
DHA-02 ACDA-07 OMB-01 IO-13 /081 W
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R 051800Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3819
INFO AMCONSUL FLORENCE
AMCONSUL GENOA
AMCONSUL MILAN
AMCONSUL NAPLES
AMCONSUL MUNICH
USMISSION NATO
DIA WASHDC
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 5656

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, IT, US
SUBJECT: SENIOR PCI OFFICIAL ATTACKS THE UNITED STATES

1. SPEAKING AT THE CONCLUDING SEESIONS OF AN ITALIAN
COMMUNIST PARTY (PCI) REGIONAL CONGRESS AT ANCONA, PCI
DIRECTORATE MEMBER ARMANDO COSSUTTA SHARPLY ATTACKED THE
UNITED STATES PRIMARILY FOR ITS ADVOCACY OF HUMAN
RIGHTS, SEEING THIS AS AN IMPEDIMENT IN THE ROAD OF
BUILDING DETENTE AND WORKING FOR DISARMAMENT. WHILE A
FULL TEXT OF COSSUTTA'S REMARKS IS NOT AVAILABLE, WE ARE
TRANSMITTING AN EMBASSY TRANSLATION OF THOSE PORTIONS
RELATING TO THE UNITED STATES WHICH WE HAVE DRAWN FROM
VARIOUS PRESS ACCOUNTS.

2. BEGIN QUOTE. IT IS USELESS THAT THE AMERICANS
ATTEMPT TO UNMASK THE TRUE NATURE THROUGH THE
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PAGE 02 ROME 05656 051850Z

CHOICES OF THEIR CAMPAIGN FOR 'HUMAN RIGHTS'
FOR WHICH IT IS REALLY GROTESQUE THAT THE IMPERIALISTS
SET THEMSELVES UP AS DEFENDERS. THE GREAT CLOUD OF
DUST RAISED OVER DISSENT IN THE USSR, TO WHICH EVEN
POLITICAL AND CULTURAL CIRCLES IN ITALY HAVE
IRRESPONSIBLY GIVEN THEIR SUPPORT, OUGHT NOT TO CAUSE
ONE TO LOSE SIGHT OF THE IMPORTANCE OF THE DECISIONS

TAKEN. ONCE AGAIN IT IS NECESSARY FOR ALL THE PEOPLE TO RAISE THEIR VOICES IN ORDER THAT INTERNATIONAL DETENTE NOT BE HALTED. AND IN THE VERY FIRST PLACE THE ITALIAN PEOPLE, WHO HAVE THE NEED NOW MORE THAN EVER TO EXTEND AND TO REINFORCE THEIR TIES OF FRIENDSHIP AND OF COMMERCIAL, CULTURAL AND POLITICAL TIES WITH ALL COUNTRIES. A STIFFENING OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS WOULD REROPOSE TERRIBLE NEW DANGERS. THIS IS THE TRUTH. THE EFFORTS OF THE MORE EXTREME AMERICANS WEIGH ON THE LACK OF AN ACCORD (SALT). THESE FEAR ON THE ONE HAND TO LOSE THROUGH THE PROCESS OF DETENTE THE TRADITIONAL CAPACITY OF INTERFERENCE AND OF DOMINATION OF THE POLITICS OF OTHER COUNTRIES AND ON THE OTHER HAND SEE IN THE ARMAMENTS RACE THE CONDITIONS TO BEST EXERCISE THEIR BLACKMAIL. END QUOTE.

3. COMMENT. AS ONE JOURNALIST HAS POINTED OUT, COSSUTTA THROUGH THE VEHICLE OF HIS SPEECH HAS MOCKED PRESIDENT CARTER'S HUMAN RIGHTS CAMPAIGN, HAS OFFERED A DISTORTED VISION OF THE HELSINKI ACCORDS, HAS RAISED AGAIN IN A UNILATERAL MANNER AMERICAN "IMPERIALISM", AND HAS INSULTED BOTH DISSIDENTS IN THE SOVIET UNION AND THEIR SUPPORTERS IN ITALY, EVEN THOSE ON THE DEMOCRATIC LEFT. FROM OUR VANTAGE POINT, COSSUTTA HAS SOUGHT RECOURSE TO WORDS AND TERMS WHICH HAVE BEEN ABSENT FROM THE PCI'S PUBLIC VOCABULARY FOR A SUBSTANTIAL PERIOD OF TIME. IT IS PROBABLY NOT SURPRISING THAT THESE WORDS HAVE COME FROM COSSUTTA SINCE HE HAS LONG HAD THE REPUTATION AS BEING ONE OF "MOSCOW'S CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 ROME 05656 051850Z

MEN" IN THE PARTY. WHAT IS ABNORMAL IS THE TIMING OF HIS BLAST, JUST AT THE MOMENT IN WHICH THE PCI IS INCREASING PRESSURE ON THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS FOR A CHANGE IN THE COUNTRY'S GOVERNING FORMULA WHICH WOULD ALLOW FOR MORE DIRECT PCI GOVERNMENTAL ROLE. THE FACT THAT COSSUTTA'S SPEECH HAS NOT YET BEEN MENTIONED IN L'UNITA COULD SIGNIFY THAT ITS TONE STRUCK A DISCORDANT NOTE AMONG THE LEADERSHIP HERE IN ROME. IF THIS IS TRUE, COSSUTTA'S SPEECH COULD REPRESENT A PUBLIC MANIFESTATION OF THE RISING TENSIONS WITHIN PARTY CIRCLES AS A RESULT OF THE PCI'S RECENT POLITICAL SETBACKS. GARDNER

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